

PEOPLE, WINGS & FORESTS

THE MIGRATORY SPECIES PROGRAM of the
USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

THE CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION

More than one-third of the bird species in the US—over 360 species—migrate to Latin America and the Caribbean each year. Many of these birds including the Swainson's Hawk and the Bicknell's Thrush are declining due to disappearing and degraded habitats outside the US. Why? Because these habitats are in countries that lack the resources and information to adequately protect and sustain forests, wetlands and other much-needed bird habitats. The sad fact is that many of America's beautiful backyard birds are facing a dim future—and for some, their very survival is at risk.

OUR PROGRAM ANSWERS THE CALL

The USDA Forest Service is addressing this critical problem with a new program focused exclusively on the conservation of the migratory birds of the Americas.

Our Starting Point: Through collaboration with our partners, we identified the migratory bird species most at risk. Then we determined which of those face the greatest danger from declining habitats outside the US. Why? Because working stateside to help these birds is only *half* of the equation—if their winter habitats outside the US are lost, we fail. By working in targeted international locations, we can sustain the winter habitats of these birds.

Protecting Our Investments at Home: The US spends over one million dollars each year on the recovery efforts for the Kirtland's Warbler alone, and experts agree that altogether, we invest millions more each year on restoring habitats for additional species that only spend part of the year in this country. Yet, little is spent on addressing the threats across our international boundaries. Why is this important? Unless we work to stop the decline of habitats overseas, we are wasting our investments to protect these birds at

DID YOU KNOW ?

Over 70 million Americans feed, watch, photograph and hunt birds—the fastest growing outdoor activity in the US.





home. The USDA Forest Service forms partnerships with organizations in these targeted international locations to work on the ground. With partners, we address the local habitat concerns and link those efforts back to the US conservation efforts at home. Prioritized work across the ranges of species does make a difference.

OUR STRATEGY

■ *What We Do*

To optimize conservation of our migratory birds, we focus on the following priorities:

- Determine which species are most at risk.
- Identify which of their overseas habitats is the most degraded or declining.
- Assess how we can assist countries in restoring those overseas habitats, including both protected areas and actively-managed forests and grasslands.
- Work at the landscape scale and link our overseas efforts with conservation efforts in the US.
- Forecast future habitat conditions to prioritize future work.

■ *How We Do It*

Tap the Skills of the Forest Service: *International Programs* is part of the USDA Forest Service, an organization with over 30,000 professionals. These professionals conduct research, manage over 76 million hectares of land across the US, and work with private landowners and communities to advance conservation. With a wealth of experts to draw upon—wildlife biologists, silviculturists, research scientists, GIS practitioners, fire ecologists, hydrologists, and many other technical specialists—the USDA Forest Service adds value to partnerships by providing technical assistance, research expertise and/or resources to get the job done.

Build International Partnerships: We always work in partnership with organizations working on the ground. Adding Forest Service technical expertise to a local presence has proven to be a very effective and efficient way to help conserve birds and their habitats. Our partners and partnerships include:

- *Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative*—focusing on strengthening conservation of Alaska's Copper River Area's migratory birds with Canada and Latin America.
- *Ducks Unlimited*—conserving migratory bird habitats in Latin America and the Caribbean.



- *The Nature Conservancy*—conserving biodiversity and migratory bird habitats in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- *North America Bird Conservation Initiative*—conserving all birds through regional and international partnerships for work that is landscape-oriented and biologically sound.
- *RAMSAR (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance)*—promoting conservation of wetlands of international importance.
- *North American Waterfowl Management Plan*—restoring and sustaining water fowl populations and habitats across North America.
- *US, Mexico, Canada, Shorebird Conservation Plans*—integrating efforts in Mexico, US and Canada to restore and ensure self-sustaining shorebird populations.
- *Partners in Flight*—providing long term conservation of North America's avifauna.
- *North American Waterbird Plan*—conserving waterbirds throughout their ranges in North America.

CONTACT US

If you would like to learn more about our program and/or discuss possible collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, please contact our migratory bird program specialists:

- Jack Capp: jcapp@fs.fed.us, (phone) 1-202 273-4725, (fax) 1-202-273-4750
- Chris Iverson: civerson@fs.fed.us, (phone) 1-202 273-4698, (fax) 1-202-273-4750

Be sure to visit the migratory species section of our website at www.fs.fed.us/global/topic/habitat/migratory.htm.



www.fs.fed.us/global





**CONSERVATION OF
KIRTLAND'S
WARBLER IN THE
BAHAMAS**

**WETLAND CONSERVATION IN CANADA'S
WESTERN BOREAL FOREST**



**CONSERVATION OF
BICKNELL'S
THRUSH
IN THE
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC**

**GIS INVENTORY OF PANTANAL
IN BRAZIL, BOLIVIA & PARAGUAY**

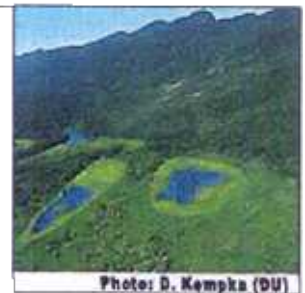


Photo: D. Kempka (DU)

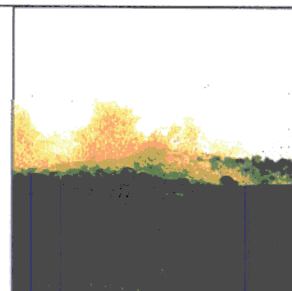


**ECOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENTS IN
MEXICO
& CENTRAL AMERICA**



**CONSERVING THE
SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE
IN NORTH AMERICA**

**BUILDING FIRE
MANAGEMENT CAPACITY
IN MEXICO
& THE CARIBBEAN**



**COPPER RIVER
INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATORY BIRD
INITIATIVE**

**RESERVA--
BUILDING CONSERVATION
CAPACITY IN
LATIN AMERICA
& THE CARIBBEAN**



**RESTORING
NARIVA WETLAND
IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

